

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
(Joint Inventors)

We, Paul Metcalfe, Craig A. Homberg, and Walter G. Lockard, hereby declare that we are, respectively,

a citizen of the United States, residing at 35235 Quartermene Circle, Bentleyville Village, Solon, Ohio 44139-2469;

a citizen of the United States, residing at 1617 Chestnut Blvd., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223;

a citizen of the United States, residing at 147 Hudson Street, Hudson, Ohio 44236;

that we have reviewed and understand the content of the attached specification, including the claims (Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue Docket No. 427600800004), and we believe that we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed therein and for which a patent is sought on the invention or discovery entitled

**COUPLING ASSEMBLY HAVING ENHANCED AXIAL TENSION
STRENGTH AND METHOD OF INSTALLATION OF
COUPLED UNDERGROUND DUCT**

and that we acknowledge our duty to disclose information of which we are aware which is material to the examination of this application, in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a).

We hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of United States Provisional Application Serial No. 60/071,159 filed January 12, 1998.

We hereby designate the following as our mailing address and telephone number:

F. Drexel Feeling, Esq.
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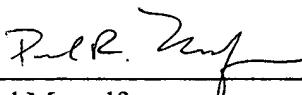
and appoint each of the following as our attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

F. Drexel Feeling; Registration No. 40,602; Kenneth R. Adamo, Registration No. 27,299; Barbara Arndt, Registration No. 37,768; David B. Cochran, Registration No. 39,142; Cheryl L.

Farine, Registration No. 36,796; Regan J. Fay, Registration No. 26,878; Calvin P. Griffith, Registration No. 34,831; Paul V. Keller, Registration No. 42,713; David M. Maiorana, Registration No. 41,449; Timothy J. O'Hearn, Registration No. 31,552; Jay Ryan, Registration No. 37,064; Stephen D. Scanlon, Registration No. 32,755; Barry L. Springel, Registration No. 25,514; H. Duane Switzer, Registration No. 22,431; Michael W. Vary, Registration No. 30,811; and James L. Wamsley, III, Registration No. 31,578

all having the above-designated address.

We further declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

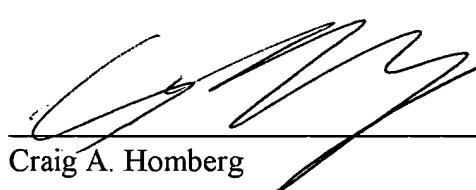


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